

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An organic electroluminescent device is disclosed which has a simple constitution, is excellent in device stability and emission efficiency, and attains high brightness.

The organic electroluminescent device comprises an organic electroluminescent element (2) and a polarized-light scattering film (1) which comprises a light-transmitting resin (11) and dispersedly contained therein minute regions (12) differing from the light-transmitting resin in birefringent characteristics and in which the difference in refractive index between the minute regions and the light-transmitting resin in the axis direction in which a linearly polarized light has a maximum transmittance,  $\Delta n^1$ , is smaller than 0.03 and that in a direction perpendicular to the  $\Delta n^1$  direction,  $\Delta n^2$ , is from 0.03 to 0.5, the light produced by the organic electroluminescent element being emitted from the device through the polarized-light scattering film. Also disclosed are: a polarizing surface light source which comprises the organic electroluminescent device and which has an illuminating planar surface and emits a polarized light; and a liquid-crystal display which comprises the polarizing surface light source and a liquid-crystal cell disposed on the light emission side of the light source.